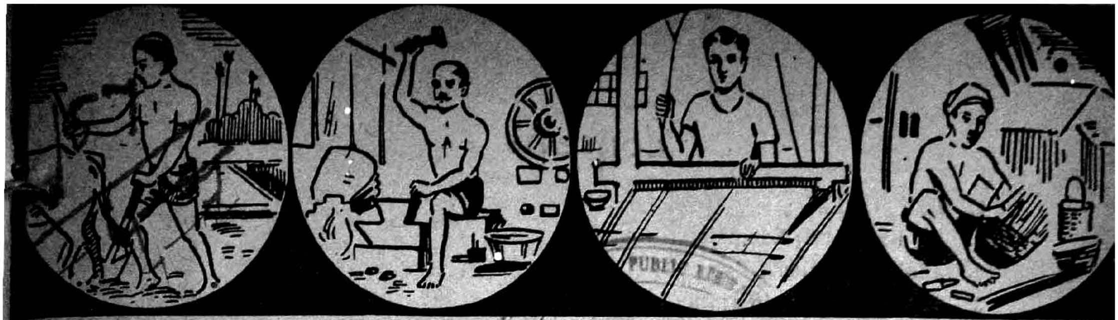

ADULT EDUCATION REVIEW

Hon. Editor. Sri. G. Harisarvottama Rau. M.A.

Vol. V] SEPTEMBER [No. 11

Students in Literacy Campaign.

The enthusiasm evinced by many of our young college students in volunteering for literacy drive is very encouraging and indicates the possibility of harnessing the energy and services of the students in the field of Social Education. It also shows the way wherefrom we can get the necessary personnel for doing this work.

In a country like ours where illiteracy is widely prevalent and resources are limited, we should enlist the student volunteers to do this all-important work, but under proper guidance and supervision. The literacy campaign is Community job that requires special efforts. We must eradicate illiteracy by the root. The efforts be concerted and sustained—then alone we can successfully attack the demon [illegible] lliteracy.

S I A E A

EACH ONE TEACH ONE

PUBLISHED BY T.J.R.GOPAL

HE SOUTH INDIAN ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, MADR

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UNITED NATIONS DAY.

On the suggestion made by Mr. T. Neelakantan, a worker in the cause of Adult Education, the United Nations authorities have agreed to the use of United Nations lapel flags on the United Nations Day. The Serigraphers Messrs. Hindustan Fabrics, Post Box No. 5, Gudiyatham, South India, are producing U. N. lapel flags in silk and the cost is likely to be Rs. 5 per 100. Adult Education centres and other institutions are requested to celebrate the United Nations Day on the 24th October, and explain to the people about the necessity and the functions of the United Nations Organisation. Those requiring lapel flags in connection with the U. N. day celebrations may please contact the Serigraphers mentioned above.

OFFICIAL REPORT READY

Second South Indian Regional Seminar on Adult Education held at Ernakulam in April 1953

PRICE : RS. 2—8—0 THICK WRAPPER

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Copies can be had from :

THE ORGANISING SECRETARY,

The South Indian Adult Education Association.

10, Narasingapuram Street, Mount Road, Madras-2

ADULT EDUCATION REVIEW

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

The South Indian Adult Education Association, Madras.

(All Correspondence should be addressed to the Organising Secretary.)

Vol. V | SEPTEMBER, 1954 | No. 11

EDITORIAL

Exit Adult Education

The Government of Madras, if Press Reports are correct have bid good-bye to Adult Education as it has all along been worked. Two reports have appeared in the Press—one on the 4th and the other 14th they are to be reproduced elsewhere. The Press Report appearing on the 4th instant says that the Government have decided to confine the Adult Education effort to the areas covered by the Community Project and National Extension Services. It is also definitely stated that Adult Education effort outside these areas will be given up for the present. That means that out of about 2,000 centres now at work in the State, just a few which happen to be in the said areas will continue and the rest will close down immediately. This is a huge blow. It is upto non-official effort to see that these are able to stand in spite of the Government's attitude. Will that be possible? It is really surprising that at a time when a person like Shri K. Kamaraj Nadar is at the head of the Madras Ministry the most democratic constructive programme should suffer such a great defeat.

The most un-understandable part of the new scheme adumbrated is that only persons between the ages of eight and eighteen will be admitted. That a child of eight becomes an adult is a wonder nature has not provided for. We can certainly understand the motive behind this lower limit. Children below 12, even 50 per cent of them are not attending schools. The Government feels it cannot help these children except by making provision for them outside working hours. They also declare, at the point of their pen, for the present, that persons beyond 18 shall not be included among adults. The world accepts 18 as the age of majority. Age of Majority begins adulthood. We are afraid that no language is strong enough to condemn this revertion to a theory of ignorance of the Madras Government. The Revised scheme of Adult Education as is reported to have been adopted by the Government of Madras is a monster of perversity. We do hope that the Government does not desire to encourage the old night schools to enter the field again by the back-door so that a favoured

few may make a pittance to add to their income by sinecure positions.

The second report that appeared is more definite. It says that the Government of Madras have directed disbursement of grants for promoting Adult Education be stopped following on their decision to concentrate on the Education of children between the ages of eight and eighteen in non-elementary school centres of Community Project and National Extension Service areas. Local Bodies, we understand, will be free to make grants to Adult Education institutions in their respective areas if their funds permit.

Even as it is the scheme adumbrated by the Government of Madras has no grit about it. It does not intend to compel children of the age mentioned. It makes no provision for useful craft works for the children who are of an age to enter life. It has no incentive in it of a feed at the school. The scheme at best is a laisse faire affair dependent for its success entirely on the free co-operation of many agencies like the parents, the employers, the children and the teachers. Further, it is not known whether the training institutions for adult teachers will be retained or abolished.

In regard to the Local Bodies willing to retain Adult Education and making grants for it will the boards be free of the redtape of applying to the Inspector of Local Bodies for all sorts of detailed sanctions?

It is strange that in such an important matter the Government should allow news to trickle down through authorised or unauthorised Press News. We wish the Government issue an authoritative statement as immediately as possible. Statement or no statement it is clear that the Madras Government believes that the adult does not require Education. This is an egregious error. No nation or people can keep its adult population uninformed and un-educated. If the Government of Madras thought that the present scheme of Adult Education was not satisfactory it was upto them to take such steps as were needed to make it effective.

We appeal to the Madras Cabinet as a whole to reconsider the position not forgetting the man in the street who can be kept idle only at the risk of Governments in existence and of the nation as a whole. Will the Government of India awake to the realities of the situation in the Madras State.?

Radio Sets for Social Education Centres

Dr. B. V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated a scheme of distribution of community radio sets under the auspices of the Bombay City Social Education Committee, in Bombay, sometime in August.

At the distribution function, Dr. Keskar said the radios, would not only provide good music, but aid in the vital task of spreading culture and enlightenment among the masses. With the spread of education it was increasingly necessary for people to know what was happening around them and the best medium for this was the radio. He said that the Adult Education Committee's idea of providing a backward area with a community radio, added a finishing touch to its programme of spreading literacy.

Adult Education

SCHOOLS TO BE OPENED IN PROJECT AREAS

The Government have sanctioned a modified scheme of adult education, according to which 650 adult schools will be opened in the areas covered by the Community Projects and 1,000 schools in the areas covered by the National Extension Service schemes. As new blocks of National Extension Service are taken up, the scheme will be extended to those areas, so that it will cover the entire State when the Extension Service becomes a State-wide scheme.

The following are the details of the scheme:

Adult education effort by the Government will be confined to the areas covered by the Community Projects and National Extension Service. Adult Education effort outside these areas will be given up for the present. Persons between the ages of eight and eighteen alone will be admitted to the adult schools. The school session will be of two hours' duration. The school can be conducted at any time in the evening after 5-30. The school, which may be conducted in any available building, preferably in an elementary school in the locality, will work for six days in a week and for 200 days in a year. The duration of the course of instruction will be three years and the existing syllabus for adult schools will be followed for the present. An examination will be held at the end of every year during the three-year course and a certificate will be issued at the end of the third year.

The administrative control of the school will vest in the Education Department. Permission to open schools and admission to recognition and aid will be granted by the District Educational Officer. The services of the Social Education Organisers and the Grama Sevaks will be utilised to supplement the supervision work of the Education Department.

In the matter of opening schools in the areas covered by the Community Projects and the National Extension Service, preference will be given to places where there are no schools at present and to places where a large percentage of the children of school-going age is not at present attending any school.

The Government have decided to constitute an Advisory Committee at State level, for advising them on all matters relating to adult education.

Adult Education in State

Government Grant to be Stopped

The Government of Madras have directed that disbursement of grants for promoting adult education be stopped, following their decision to concentrate on the education of children between the ages of 8 and 18 in non-elementary school centres of Community Project and National Extension Service areas.

The provision made for grants for adult education during 1954–'55 was about Rs. 7 lakhs. The present decision of the Government will however, not result in any saving for the Government, as they would be spending a larger sum on education of children in the specified areas. It is also proposed to leave the local bodies free to make grants to adult education institutions in their respective areas, if their funds permit.

Orders of the Government in the matter are likely to be issued in a few days.

Official information as to the number of adult schools which may be affected by the present order is not available.

Adult Education in French-India Liberated Area

Sri G. Harisarvothama Rao, M. A., Chairman, South Indian Adult Education Association writes :

I have now had the privilege of visiting a fair part of liberated French India with Headquarters at Nettapakkam. French colonial imperialism has not been very different from other national imperialisms though France has been acclaimed the fountain source of democratic freedom. Communes in the liberated area had not much of civil or criminal jurisdiction. They had no Police of their own. Nor, they were the revenue collecting agencies for their areas and French Imperialism had probably never thought of adult education. So, liberation has practically meant disturbance for the whole administration. I found, just as I was going, that the liberation Government was announcing the bringing into existence of the registration department and the present educational institutions have come into being within the last 2 months. The administrator Sri H. S. Paul our old Collector, South Arcot is very well known for his enthusiasm for the education of the masses and he has begun with establishing schools for children and adults simultaneously. People seem to be responding allright and questioned in some places, the adults told me they were learning to become enlightened which in itself is an advantage in life. Dispensaries and Health services also are in progress. Communications have yet to be greatly improved but that is a heavy item requiring finance which probably the young free communes can not immediately afford. In quite a number of places I visited, the village folk were putting up their own school houses. This urge for self-help may possibly be intensified by forming Panchayats with full powers and in the interval by inducing the populations to take up improvements of communication. It is gratifying that the fundamental social service of education is getting fair priority. The Liberation Council and the Administrator may be congratulated on their enthusiasm and industry for people who have voluntarily come under their care.

It is best that the Adult Institution make arrangement to teach children between 8 to 18 separately. National Songs like Bharati's and famous verses from Classics like Naladiar, Kural etc. may be taught even as a preliminary to literacy as entertainment. The reading and explanation of the newspapers should also be a universal programme, the village folk being invited to join when this item commences.

The Social Education Seminar

Travancore-Cochin

Under the auspices of the State Adult Education Board, it is proposed to conduct a Seminar in Trivandrum for three days from 22—9—'54 to 24—9—'54. The object of the Seminar is to bring together 75 Social Education Organisers working in various parts of the State for more than two years now under the State Social Education scheme and to study the various problems confronting them in their efficiency and usefulness to the country. Incidentally the Seminar will also help focus public attention on the importance of Social Education as furnishing a sure foundation for the successful working of democratic institutions in the country.

Sri G. Ramachandran, Director, Gandhigram, Madura, has kindly consented to be the director of the seminar. There will also be five Associate Directors to help the Director particularly in the conduct of group discussions. The Executive Officer for Adult Education

Chandanwadi Tells Its Story

Literacy Classes :—At the time when the Association started its work, the overall percentage of literacy was a faithful representation of general conditions in the labour area of this city. However, certain differences existed in the various sections, the spread of literacy being moderate among Christians, Maharashtrians and Marars and minimum among Kharvas. Kharvas have been a special problem to be tackled. They and to a certain extent others also, adhere tenaciously to orthodox Hindu customs which regard women as a piece of property to be taken care of by the father, the husband or the son. They stick to the shackles of caste inherited by birth; they have not even reached the stage of some moderately rational Hindus who look upon caste as having been evolved out of vocations and not conferred by birth. The Kharvas do not let girls above a particular age move out of the house. But a Hindu who is so vigilant about the morals of a girl often forgets or neglects his duties prescribed by the same Hinduism. He drinks and gamles, lies and cheats, beats people and even commits murders. He expects obedience from his children and his wife but is woefully negligent of his own responsibility towards society or even towards his own self.

In such conditions to bring culture and education to those houses was a formidable task. With the active support and help from a section of Kharvas, literacy classes for women were started; the first step was taken. It was a very interesting and revealing experience. Often the site for the class had to be changed, because some women would refuse to go to that place and so on. At one state, in order to meet and satisfy such prejudices, there used to be three different floors in the same chawl with an average attendance of seven in each class. In these classes, apart from literacy, some crafts and other things useful in house work were also taught. Personal hygiene was always over and again emphasised. Now, we have travelled far from these conditions of several different classes for a few ladies. All the classes are held in the common hall where about sixty ladies come. The Association by now has imparted literacy to 150 ladies.

The Association provides every facility to the students who come to the literacy class *e.g.*, books, slates, pencil etc. At present six lady teachers are working honorarily in these classes which are being conducted between 2 P.M. and 4 P.M. Girls and women students are drawn from various age groups, there being 30 students of below 15 years of age, 35 of between 15 and 35 years of age and six above 35 years of age.

Amongst other sections of the residents the problem was comparatively easy and literacy was also much higher. Recently the Association has started a literacy class for Marathi-speaking ladies which has an average attendance of fifteen.

Teaching the male adult has been a disappointing venture. It is difficult to tame him and attract him to the discipline of the class room. All attempts met with initial success but the attendance never remained steady. The classes had to be abandoned and at present there are no literacy classes for men. The ebullient spirit in men probably wants more boisterous expression than the mere repetition of an alphabet on a slate. Or it may be that the day's hard work

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will be Secretary-General and the four adult education inspectors will be associate secretaries. The Social education organisers now in service under the Adult Education Board will be the delegates and officers and workers of the Community Project and National Extension blocks will be invited to attend as observers. Visitors also will be allowed by request or invitation to witness the proceedings.

leaves him so exhausted that a class becomes an additional and unbearable strain. Besides it is difficult to convince adults as to how the knowledge of three R's will help them in the daily routine of their life. To be able to read a newspaper or sign is not sufficient incentive, though to be able to read a promissory note might be one. Perhaps he cannot help feeling "I have lived more than half of my age without this knowledge or ability, I can do so even now." Whatever the reasons, the fact remains that the associations has not made much progress in its efforts to impart literacy to adult males.

There are classes for English too. The fate of these classes in the beginning was not different from the above-mentioned classes. The English classes were started in May 1948, but were abandoned later and restarted in October last. Now fortunes seem to have turned, for there is a steady attendance of about twenty people. The classes are being conducted daily.

A recent addition to the literacy activities is the starting of a Hindi Class at the request of the Christian residents. One of the difficulties which crops up in all such classes is that people differing in their standard of knowledge have to be herded together. People, for example, knowing how to read or write come in the same class with those who do not know even the alphabet. This difficulty has been solved by coaching separately for a few days those who do not know anything and then teaching them with others. The class is conducted once a week.

—(*Extract from Social Welfare.*)

Distribution of Certificates for Neo-literates

Bellary on 31—8—54.

An elaborate function for distribution of certificates for new literates and for inauguration of an Adult literacy class was organised under the auspices of the District Adult Education Committee at Sidiginamale in Bellary Taluk under the Presidentship of Sri Uravakonda Jagadaguru Shri Karibasava Rajendraswamiji.

After invocation by Sri Y. M. Channabasaiah, and welcome speech by Sri Veerabhadraiah, Sri C. V. Rajagopal, Divisional Officer for Adult Education explained to the audience the aims and objects of the Adult Education Council. Sri Chanda Narayanappa, Andhra. M.L.A., spoke on Five Years Plan and the progress achieved so far; requested the people to give their whole hearted co-operation for the imple mentation of plans, Sri V. Ramachandra Rao, Secretary, District Marketing Committee also spoke on the occasion.

Sri K. Channabasappa, Advocate and the Editor *Ryota* inaugurating the Adult literacy class, requested the people to make use of the facilities given to them by the council to erradicate illiteracy. Distributing the certificates to the Neo-literates, Sri Swamiji said that education is one of the necessities of people just as food, shelter and clothing He stressed the need for education for women quoting example from vachanas.

Sri K. S. Channabasappa, Organising Secretary, District Adult Education Committee proposed a vote of thanks.

In addition to this, Adult Education film show and reading of Purana were organised.

News and Notes

Fifth National Seminar

The Fifth National Seminar on "Organisation of Recreational and Cultural Activities in Social Education" will begin in Paschamavahini, Mysore from the 11th October 1954. Shri A.R. Despande will be the Director of the Seminar.

* * *

Radio to Help Remove Illiteracy

Malaya Adult Education Association will launch its first education-by-radio campaign from September 11. Commencing on that day, Radio Malaya will broadcast daily half-an-hour lessons. The Federal Adult Education Department, the Malaya Adult Education Association and the Malaya Radio have been jointly working on plans to launch this campaign.

* * *

Prizes for Best Books for Neo-Literates

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, is holding its second competition for books in all regional languages which will help neo-literate adults by contributing to their social economic and cultural betterment.

Thirty-five prizes totalling Rs. 20,000 will be awarded to the best books. Five prizes of Rs. 1,000 each and 30 prizes of Rs. 500 each will be awarded. Besides, any book which is adjudged to be of sufficient merit will be approved and 1,000 copies will be purchased for distribution to Community Projects etc.

Any subject that is helpful to the neo-literate adult in his daily life, economically, socially, or culturally can be selected. Only original books and manuscripts will be considered. Books in any one of the regional languages of India can be submitted; but they should be written in a simple style, suited to the adults for whom they are meant.

Books should normally be of about 32 pages, and in no case should they exceed 48 pages of demy octovo size, printed in not less than 16 point type.

Four copies of each printed book should be submitted. If the book is in manuscript, only three copies may be submitted. Books together with Treasury Chalans should be sent before April 30, 1955 to the Secretary, Folk Literature Committee, Ministry of Education, New Delhi

Community Radio System in Bombay.

Inauguration by Dr. B.V. Keskar.

The Bombay City Social Education Committee launched on a new medium for educating the masses, when its system of Community Radio Listening Sets was inaugurated by Dr. B V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, on 24th July, 1954, in the presence of a large gathering at R. M. Bhatt School Hall.

Shri Modi's Welcome Speech.

Welcoming Shri Keskar, Shri Champaklal G. Modi, President, BOSEC, thanked him for giving an impetus to the Social Education Movement in the City by specially coming down to Bombay to inaugurate the Committee's Community Radio System. Narrating the Committee's work he said that every year 60,000 adults received fundamental education in about 2500 centres conducted by the Committee.

Radio—an Educational Medium: Shri Modi then said: "The Radio, like the Press and the Film, has rightly been considered a potentially educational and socially beneficial instrument of public utility. It has a tremendously powerful influence for building up a live public opinion, as well as for uplifting the nation. We have already been using for the past few years in Bombay educational films in our centres, where practically every day, film shows are arranged through our fully equipped Social Education Vans. The newspaper cannot be directly much useful where illiterates are concerned. But even illiterates can listen and understand though they cannot read and write. Hence the utility and importance of the Radio becomes the greater in educating unlettered masses".

Need for Cheap Radios.

"In the matter of Radio Receivers we are glad that you have been emphasising the production of cheap radio sets realising as you do the abject poverty of the masses. The production of cheap radios," continued Shri Modi, "is a necessity if the use of radio in India is to expand as much as say in the U. S. A. where 9 out of every 10 families have a radio set. But in India with a population much more than double

that of the U. S. A. we have hardly a million sets-just one per hundred families. Hence the prime necessity for the production of cheap radio receivers, so that the potentiality of the A. I. R. may be fully utilized by a vastly extended listening population. Within the amount that we have got from the UNESCO, if cheap radio listening units were available, we would have been able to render service through our Community Radio Sets to a much larger section of the population. I may add here that while Community Radio receivers have been maintained by some State Governments for the rural areas, these Receivers which you, Sir, are going to inaugurate, are perhaps the very first Community Sets installed in a purely urban industrial area. I envisage a day when the six lakhs of villages in India will have at least twelve lacs of Community Radio Sets for elevating them," concluded Shri Modi.

Shri Kapadia's Speech.

Shri B. M. Kapadia, Social Education Officer, giving a report on the Community Radio Scheme said: "As already emphasised by Shri Champaklal G. Modi, our Committee's President, the radio is a very important aid to mass education along with the Cinema. The Bombay City Social Education Committee arranges for the enlightenment of the backward people, 400 cinema shows every year through its Educational Cinema Vans, which are witnessed by over two lakhs of people. The Committee was watching for an opportunity to utilise the radio for systematic education in its Social Education Centres. It was in 1951 that this Committee was recognised as an Associated Project of the UNESCO and one of its representatives, Mr. William C Collings visited Bombay to personally see the work done by the Committee. We then put before him, at his suggestion, our needs in the matter of equipment to carry out fully our educational programme. As a result of our representation, the UNESCO Administration, put our case before international donors interested in mass education. Since then the Committee is receiving UNESCO Gift Goupons under their schemes, through its donating agencies. During the past two years we have received 5830 dollars worth gift coupons. Of these Rs. 7,500 or 1520 dollars are earmarked by these agencies for installing Community Radio Sets.

Shri Kapadia gave a list of about 30 donating bodies which included several Federation of Women's Clubs, the Federation of Soroptimist Clubs and several Soroptimist Clubs, some Community Clubs and others all from the United States of America. Shri Kapadia then said that 14 Radio Sets were already purchased from the above donations and installed at 14 different places all over the City of Greater Bombay, where the Committee's Social Education Centres were working.

Dr. Keskar in his inaugural address said: Even a sweeper if educated, would be a better sweeper and a better man. Hence education was necessary for all including the young and the old, the rich and the poor.

Dr. Keskar then inaugurating the Community Radio System, switched on the Bombay Station of the A. I. R. on one of the Radio Sets and then presented the 14 Radio Sets to the representatives of different Community Radio Centres Committees. Shri, Ganapatrao Kadam, thanked the Minister and the Committee for the presentation and assured them that they would make the best and fullest use of this new instrument of education for uplifting their brethren.

Smt. Kulsum Sayani, Vice-President, of the Committee, proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Keskar. This was followed by a cultural programme of devotional and folk songs after which the function terminated with the singing of the national song.

Edited by Sri G. Harisarvottama Rau and Published by Sri T. J. R. Gopal for S.I.A.E.A., at No. 10, Narasinghapuram Street, Mount Road, Madras-2, and Printed by Sri S. Sundaresan, L.P.T., at the Central Co-operative Printing Works, Ltd., Dinroze Estate, 1/17, Mount Road, Madras 2.

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